



Wildland Fire Updates

June 27, 2013
Last Updated: 12:00 p.m.

Contacts
Report Fires: 911
AFS/DOF Public Affairs: (907) 356-5511

Future updates will be provided when significant changes in activity occur.

Highway and Wildland Fire Smoke Information



Photo on 6-26-13 by Rick Thompson of Skinny's Road Fire. In general, in areas where smoke impacts roadways, motorists are asked to use caution, slow down, and drive with their headlights on. Information on travel conditions and fire-related road closures can be found at <http://511.alaska.gov>. **Travelers on the Parks Highway should expect lengthy delays; pilot cars will be taking travelers through the fire-affected area.** Fires in the Tok Area are visible, but otherwise not an impact, to the Alaska Highway.

Where there is fire, there is **smoke**. Smoke is visible in many parts of the state and is heaviest in close proximity to fires. Keep informed of local

fire information sources and air quality reports. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has smoke information at <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm> and <http://dec.alaska.gov/air/smokemain.htm>. For "Frequently Asked Questions" visit http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/smoke_qa.htm. The general upper air flow is out of the west/southwest, where multiple large fires are burning. Smoke in the Tanana Valley is due to fires in closer proximity to Fairbanks, including the Skinny's Road Fire. The light flow aloft will result in smoke persisting in the area. In addition to causing traffic delays, smoke is hindering the fire community in logistical efforts, such as the movement of firefighters and delivery of supplies to fires.

6/27 Skinny's Fire (9:45 a.m.) – The Skinny's Road Fire (#388) has not crossed the Parks Highway. After escaping the initial containment lines last evening, a narrow finger of the fire burned south towards the Parks Highway. Fire crews conducted a burnout operation last night between Milepost 327 of the Parks Highway and the Cell Tower. About .24 inches of rain fell on the fire last night. Crews continue building line, and the fire managers will fly the fire this morning.

Fairbanks Area Update: Due to Extreme Fire Danger the Fairbanks area of the Tanana Valley State Forest is CLOSED to all personal use firewood harvesting and commercial logging activity. This closure will continue until the high fire danger ends.

6/27 – Fire Information Update – and Information Contacts Statewide

If you are looking for more detailed fire-related information, please refer to the following:

- Situation Report (information about individual fires) <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
- Maps <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
- News Releases <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/newsroom.php>

- Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/weather/outlooks/FFBehavior.pdf>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Guide (includes information about emergency preparedness and post-fire conditions on p. 7, wildland fire smoke, and more) http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/Alaska_Wildland_Fire_Guide_2013.pdf

BLM Alaska Fire Service/Division of Forestry combined Fire Information Office at **907-356-5511**. *If call volume is heavy, please keep calling back if you do not initially reach us.*

Fire information for **southwest Alaska**: 907-524-0063

Fire information for the **Fairbanks Area**: 907-451-2704

Fire information for the **Tok Area**: 907-699-6411

Fire information for the **Chisana River Fire**, visible from the Yukon Territory and into Alaska:

<http://inciweb.org/incident/3440/> and <http://www.nps.gov/wrst/parkmgmt/currentfireinfo.htm>

According to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center, **115 fires are active statewide**; the two largest fires are in the southwest area and include Lime Hills (265,377 acres) and Moore Creek (159,009 acres). A total of 372 fires have burned 673,744 acres so far this year; the majority of that acreage gain has been in the past few weeks due to the hot, dry conditions. Under current conditions, fires are growing quickly and are resistant to control efforts.

Twenty-three new fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center on Wednesday. **Currently 27 fires are staffed** but this number can change throughout the day as fires are demobilized and as new fires start that require response. Fire managers are prioritizing the movement of aircraft and personnel to be positioned to respond to new fires.

It is crucial that residents and visitors in Alaska actively prevent wildfires for public safety reasons, for the safety of our firefighters, and because the resources in Alaska are in high demand due to the number of fires statewide and the extremely dry conditions. Lightning-caused fires continue to start; for every human-caused fire that requires response, it means those resources (aircraft, equipment, people) are not available to respond to the fires that we cannot prevent.

If you plan to burn debris, obtain and adhere to Alaska Division of Forestry guidelines and suspensions as outlined by <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn>. For information about emergency closures for campfires in National Parks in Alaska, visit <http://www.nps.gov/wrst/parkmgmt/currentfireinfo.htm>.

Information Gathering/Additional References

www.inciweb.nwcg.gov

www.twitter.com

Alaska Fire Service account: **@BLM_AFS**

Alaska Division of Forestry account: **@AK_Forestry**

Bureau of Land Management account: **@BLMALaska**

National Park Service account: **@AlaskaNPS**

US Fish and Wildlife Service account: **@USFWSAlaska**

Alaska Fire Consortium: **@AKfirescience**

www.facebook.com

BLM Alaska Fire Service account: **BLM Alaska Fire Service**

Alaska Division of Forestry account: **AK.Forestry**

Bureau of Land Management account: **BLMALaska**

National Park Service account: **AlaskaNPS**

US Fish and Wildlife Service account: **USFWSAlaska**

www.youtube.com

Alaska Division of Forestry account: **AlaskaDNRDOF**

National Park Service account: **AlaskaNPS**

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
- Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
- Alaska Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
- National Fire Situation Report: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>

- Interagency Newsroom (Media Guide): <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/newsroom.php>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group - Education and Reference Materials:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Alaska Fire Consortium: <http://akfireconsortium.uaf.edu>
- Protect your home and property!: <http://firewise.org/> and
- <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/firewise09.pdf>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns):
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
- BLM Alaska Fire Service: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/afs/>
- Alaska Division of Forestry: <http://forestry.alaska.gov>
- Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/nature/fire/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

AICC Wildland Fire Update is compiled by Alaska Division of Forestry and BLM Alaska Fire Service